

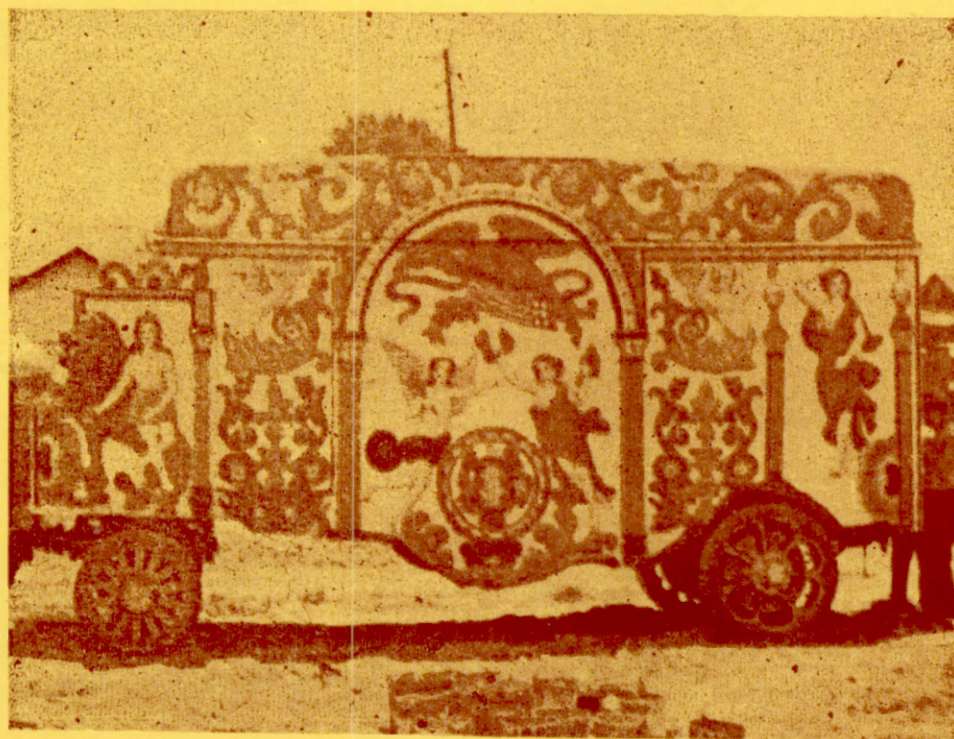
CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August

1946

25c

The BANDWAGON



TWO CAR RAILROAD CIRCUSES F.M.FARRELL

In looking back to the golden age of the Circus and those years when the Circuses toured during the summer months, they had no competition like today. I recall in years gone by the Circus was the only shows the folks saw during the summer months. There were many Circuses of various sizes, such as small wagon shows travelling over the roads on 3 and 4 wagons and on up. Some shows using anywhere from 25 to 40 wagons and putting out a very colorful street parade.

Also there was railroad shows travelling on 2 and 3 cars and big Circuses travelling from place to place on many cars. Knowing that many members of the CHS never saw a 2 or 3 car railroad Circus I thought perhaps they might be interested in reading an article on 2 and 3 car Circuses. I remember back in the early 1900's there was many 2 car Circuses on tour. ELMER JONES, for many years operated 2 and 3 car Circuses and was considered the king of the 2 car showmen. Some of the titles he used on his 2 car shows were: -COOPER BROS.; HUGO BROS. MODERN UNITED SHOWS, COLE & ROGERS; KING & TUCKER, STONE & MURRAY, RICE BROS; PARKS & BANKS, MONTGOMERY QUEEN, GREAT EASTERN HIPPODROME SHOWS, COLE BROS; and many more old titles.

It was in the spring of 1911 that I saw my first 3 car Circus. It was MASTERSONS R.R.SHOWS an Exhibition of Quality, Distinction and Originality, so the letter head read. The show was a 3 car Circus and opened the tenting season in Charleston, W.Va. on Sat. Apr. 22, 1911. Played in Middleport, Ohio, Mon. 24th, Point Pleasant, W.Va. 25th; Poca, W.Va. 26th; Cedar Grove 27th; Booner 28th; Montgomery 29th and Sundayed in Page, W.Va. The show made many towns in W.Va. and some in Va. and Ohio. HARRY TOPPING was the owner. FRANK KENJOCKETY, band director; MERRIT BELEW, equestrian dir; MABEL KENJOCKETY, equestrienne. There were many performers but their names have long ago slipped my memory. The show had a dining car, where all meals were served. Mr. Topping had a stateroom in the further end of the car and between the stateroom and dining dep't was a room containing berths for the officials of the show. There was a sleeper for the big show and side show performers and the band. One end was partitioned off for the bosses. The 3rd car was a 60 ft. stock car where all of the show was carried including the horses, ponies and performing dogs.

The spring of 1914 I joined my first 2 car show. It was the STONE & MURRAY CIRCUS. ELMER JONES was the owner, ALEC JONES mgr. JAKE FRIEDMAN mgr. of the pit show and big show announcer. I made side show openings, also did magic, punch, vent and lectures in the side show. LARRY LARSON was director of the big show band, JOE DEMPSEY, lot sup't; CARTWRIGHT, adj; in the big show was the MORRISSES and their trained monkeys, they also did Rolling Globe, rings, single traps and iron jaw; OWEN LEWIS worked the elephant act, also riding and trained dogs, goodnight pony and Jan. mule. GEO. WHITTIE did the foot slide, bounding wire and swinging perch. BOB COOK and ROY LEINHART were two of the clowns.

We were showing in a town in Minn. one day and the GOLLMAR BROS. CIRCUS a 25 car show was showing in a town not many miles away. Some of the town folks went that day to the town that Gollmar was showing in and took in the matinee and then returned and took in our night show. The Stone & Murray Circus travelled from place to place on 2 R.R. cars. One car was a Pullman sleeper 70 ft. long. In the sleeper was one state room for the mgr. and his wife. There was the regular berths for the performers etc. In one end was a kitchen where all meals were prepared and all meals were served in the car. Regardless of what time the show arrived in a town we never missed a meal. There was a 70 ft. baggage car

TWO CAR CIRCUSES(CONTINUED)

where all of the equipment was carried, also sleeping quarters for the working men. The show used a 90 ft. top with two 40 ft. middles. Sideshow was a 50 ft. with two 20 ft. middles. Pit show was a 20x30 ft. top and the dressing room top was a 20x60. The show carried 5 cages of animals. One small elephant, a camel, 8 ponies, 2 head of baggage stock and a troupe of dogs that performed in the big show and a Jan. mule and cart. There were 2 gilly wagons. The wagons were knocked down to load in the end doors. As soon as the first wagon was loaded the team started to the lot with it, when the first wagon returned the second was ready to move to the lot and so on until the car was all unloaded. The cages were the last to leave the train and first to leave the lot at night. The cages, elephant and camel were in the side show as no menagerie top was carried. The side show was taken down just as soon as the big show started and loaded and sent to the train. No doubt but what some readers will doubt that so much equipment and performers and props could be carried with a 2 car show nevertheless it is a fact. If you saw anyone of Elmer Jones 2 car shows you would wonder how they loaded it all.

CHS BET LEONARD trouped with one of Elmer Jones 2 car shows in 1919 and she knows it could be done, I believe it was CHRISTY'S. No 2 car showmen could load as much as Elmer Jones or Geo. Christy.

The show exhibited in Cass Lake, Minn. Sat. June 13th, also Sunday there the 14th. Sun. morning they hitched up the team drove all to the lake where we had a picnic and lots of good eats. Many of the fishermen with the show tried their luck and what catches they had that day. I never saw anything like it. The show was in Roseau, Minn. July 4th. There was a big 4th of July celebration on and there was thousands of people in town to attend the events. It looked as if the show would not get many customers that day with so much going on. Nevertheless the Circus showed to overflow business both afternoon and night. On July 7th the SPARKS CIRCUS was showing in Red Lake Falls, Minn. The Stone & Murray was losing the day jumping from Greenbush, Minn. to Petersburg, N. Dak. Late in the afternoon the train stopped at Red Lake Falls and Chas. Sparks was at the R.R. station so he invited some of us to visit his show. I was one of those that got off the train and visited the Sparks Circus that eve. Sparks Circus was billed to show in Crookston, Minn. July 8th and our cars layed over in Crookston the night of the 7th, so we rode Sparks train into Crookston. At Edgeley, N. Dak. July 25th stand was a terrible hot day, about 6 P.M. a twister hit the show along with a down pour of rain and hail. It took everything down on the lot and ruined the big top. We lost the night show. The side show top only had a few tears in it and was ready Mon. The big top was used for a few days until another top arrived from winter quarters.

All 2 and 3 car Circuses moved from place to place on passenger trains and cars had to be equipped so as to stand inspection to move in passenger service. Once in awhile we lost a day making jumps on account of not being able to make connections, so as to get in town for an afternoon performance. Once in awhile we had special moves, when passenger trains could not get the show in on time to give a matinee. In later yrs. along came autos and railroads started taking off passenger trains on branch lines and local trains on the main lines so no trains to move on 2 car shows passed out of the picture. I have trouped with MONTGOMERY QUEEN and the GREAT EASTERN HIPPODROME, CHRISTY'S HEBER BROS. The first two being owned by Elmer Jones and the last one by Geo. Christy.

DON'T FORGET THE XMAS ADS-THE MORE ADS THE BIGGER THE BOOK-SEND NOW.

Aug. 1946

The BANDWAGON

COLE BROS. 1940 WAGON LIST
Chalmer Condon

BIG TOP

1 Pole Wagon	28 ft.	#80(old number)	#80(new number)
1 Stringer wagon	26 ft.	#81 "	#81 "
2 plank wagons	14'6"	#91 & 102	#83 & 84
2 chair wagons	14'6" & 17'	#98 & 104	#85 & 86
2 canvas wagons	14 ft.	#A1.G.	#87 & 88
1 stake & chain	14'	#82	#82
1 stake driver	13'		#89

PROP DEP'T

1 canvas wagon	16'6"	#61	#70
2 trunk wagons	14'6"	#84 & 85	#71 & 72
1 trap & wardrobe	14'6"	#90	#73
1 air calliope	14'	#83	#74
1 inside prop	19'	#73	#75

Cook House

1 baggage wagon	19'	#20	#20
1 boiler wagon	12'	#21	#21

Side Show

1 baggage wagon	19'	#70	#61
1 COLUMBIA tab	23'	#41	#62

Light Dep't

1 baggage wagon	17'	#50	#50
1 Tab	15'	#22	#51

MENAGERIE WAGON

	19'	#40	#40
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STABLE WAGON

	15'	#30	#30
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BIG SHOW TICKET WAGON

	15'		#63
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CANDY STAND WAGON

		#65	#65
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3 MACK TRUCKS

	17'		#1,2,3.
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CAGES.

1 hippo den	21'6"	#20	#19
1 seal den	12'		#18
4 cross cages	6'		#17,16,15,14.
1 cage	15'		#13
1 cage	16'6"		#12
4 cages	12'6"		#11,10,9,8.
1 cage	10'		#7

* * * * *

Tom & Bob Parkinson took time out and went on a trip to the West Coast. On the way they met Bill Green, Joe Fleming and Art Stensvad. Saw Cole Bros. then Dailey Bros. at Gallup, N. Mexico. Went to the old Barnes quarters at Baldwin Park, Calif. and say there is nothing left. Saw 4 R.R. cars of the Arthur Circus with 8 wagons on rotting away at Baldwin Park.

It only takes \$1 for a Xmas Greeting to all your fellow members and at the same time makes a big and worthwhile Xmas issue. Send now but be sure to mark your ad Xmas so it is not printed before, this is not necessary of course if it is a greeting and not an ad. Send it early as the issue size will depend on the amount of ads.

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COVER

The photo on this month's cover is of the "COLUMBIA" wagon and for the last few years has been used by COLE BROS. as a ticket wagon.

** ** ** ** **

KING BROS.CIRCUS Jun.27,1946
J.J.CROWLEY

This truck show and real circus is owned by both FLOYD KING and HAROLD RUMBAUGH. Big Top is an 80 ft. round top with 2-30 ft. middles and 1-40 ft. middle. Instead of the bigger middle piece covering the center ring it covers the #3 ring. Show uses 2 rings, one at each end and a stage in the center. Big Top has 4 center poles and 16 quarter poles. Grand stand seats are 6 high and blues are 8 high. Menagerie Top is a 60 ft. round top with 2-30 ft. middles, and contains 3 bulls, 2 camels, 3 horses, 6 ponies, 1 sacred cow, 2 euded. Cage carrying 14 monkeys, cage with a musk ox, cage with a lion, lioness and a pair of bears. Side Show Top is a 50 ft. top with 2-30s. Cookhouse Top is a 40x60 ft. Two Pit Shows are also carried. LEE HINCKLEY has the band (8 pieces) and an air calliope. Dressing Top is 20x30. Band Top is 20x20. Trucks are painted yellow with red lettering of the title. Trucks are as follows:-

#38	Semi Trailer	Concessions
#41	" "	Light Plant
#5	" "	Props and workmens sleeper
	" "	Ring curbs, stage and seat planks
#12	" "	Horse van
#42	" "	Ring stock, ponies, dogs and led stock
#47	" "	Bull truck
#29	" "	Cookhouse
#32	" "	Side show top and equipment
#7	" "	Sleeper
#9	" "	"
#27	" "	"
	" "	Side show band and colored sleeper
#6	" "	Planks, stringers, poles
#48	" "	Grand stand chairs and platforms
		Small Ford pickup truck
#10	Straight bed truck, repairs	
	" " "	water tank
		Army 4 wheel straight bed, side show sleeper
		Four wheel wagon trailer, ticket wagon
#6	Bandstand, band top, planks, air calliope	
#4	Straight bed truck, big top canvas, has a hoist on	
	Two wheel automatic stake driver	
	Straight bed cage (monkeys)	
	" " " (musk ox)	
	" " " (lions, bears)	
	Concessions dep't truck	
	Pit show truck	

CIRCUS XMAS CARDS FOR SALE

Xmas cards with a circus photo on and your name plus the greetings. If you wish you may choose any photo from my vast file of negatives, just name the type you want (lot scene, animal shot, parade wagon etc) and the Circus or send your own negative or photo. All photos or negatives will be returned. Order now-Don't delay-100 for only \$6.00

VAN MATRE

3328 H St.

Phila. Pa.

DON'T FORGET THE BIG CIRCUS EXHIBIT AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM FROM NOV. 10th to DEC. 1st. ALL FREE AND EVERYONE IS INVITED.

AUG. 1946

The BANDWAGON

ROBINSON FAMOUS SHOWS-1914 ROUTE-JERRY MUGIVAN & BERT BOWERS
OWNERS-22 CAR CIRCUS(BY C.E.DUBLE WHO SPENT ENTIRE SEASON ON IT)

APR. 15	Montgomery,	Ala.	June 17	Orillia, Ont. Canada	
16	Calera,	"	18	Perry Sound, Ont. Canada	
17	Birmingham,	"	19	Sudbury,	" "
18	Cullman,	"	20	Sturgeon Falls, Ont. Canada	
20	New Decatur,	"	22	Cochrane,	" "
21	Columbia,	Tenn.	23	So. Porcupine,	" "
22	Gallatin,	"	24	Englehart,	" "
23	Russellville, Ky.		25	North Cobalt,	" "
24	Bowling Green,	"	26	North Bay	" "
25	Glasgow,	"	27	Mattawa,	" "
27	La Grange,	"	29	Pembroke,	" "
28	Frankfort,	"	30	Arnprior,	" "
29	Paris,	"	July 1	Ottawa,	" "
30	Winchester,	"	2	St. Jerome,	Que. "
May 1	Mt. Sterling,	"	3	Joliette,	" "
2	Morehead,	"	4	Grand Mere,	" "
4	Ashland,	"	6	Québec,	" "
5	Maysville,	"	7	St. Anne De Laperade,	" "
6	Covington,	"	8	Three Rivers	" "
7	Greenville,	Ohio	9	Terre Bonne	" "
8	Marysville	"	10	Lachute	Que. "
9	Galion,	"	11	Maissonnevue	" "
11	Barberton,	"	13	Montreal	" "
12	Ravenna	"	14	Magog	" "
13	Salem	"	15	St. Hyacinthe	" "
14	Beaver Falls, Pa.		16	Sorel	" "
15	Brownsville	"	17	Nicolet	" "
16	Monessen	"	18	Montmagny	" "
18	Homestead	"	20	Riviere De Loup	" "
19	West Newton	"	21	Edmundston	N.B. "
20	McKees Rocks	"	22	Grand Falls	" "
21	Carnegie	"	23	Woodstock	" "
22	Washington	"	24	Fredericton	" "
23	Wellsburg	W. Va.	25	Doaktown	" "
25	E. Liverpool	Ohio	27	Chatham	" "
26	Ambridge	Pa.	28	Amherst	" "
27	Leechburg	"	29	Truro	N.S. "
28	Kittanning	"	30	Windsor	" "
29	Franklin	"	31	Halifax	" "
30	Titusville	"	Aug. 1	New Glasgow	" "
June 1	Jamestown	N.Y.	3	Sydney	" "
2	Gowanda	"	4	North Sydney	" "
3	Niagara Falls	"	5	Antigonish	" "
4	St. Catharines, Ont. Canada		6	Pictou	" "
5	Welland	" "	7	Oxford	" "
6	Dunnville	" "	8	Moncton	N.B. "
8	Toronto	" "	10	St. John	" "
9	Uxbridge	" "	12	Bangor	Maine
10	Peterboro	" "	13	Gardiner	" "
11	Lindsay	" "	14	North Conway	N.H.
12	Barrie	" "	15	Lancaster	" "
13	Meaford	" "	17	St. Johnsbury	Vt.
15	Collingwood	" "	18	Newport	" "
16	Midland	" "	19	Richford	" "

ROBINSON ROUTE(CONTINUED)

Aug. 20	St. Albans	Vt.	Sept. 28	Clarksburg,	W. Va.
21	Burlington,	"	29	Marietta,	Ohio
22	Barre	"	30	Athens	"
24	Claremont,	N.H.	Oct. 1	Chillicothe	"
25	Brattleboro	Vt.	2	Portsmouth	"
26	Bellows Falls	"	3	Williamson	W. Va.
27	Rutland	"	5	Bluefield	"
28	Bennington	"	6	Pulaski	Va.
29	Granville	N.Y.	7	Christiansburg	"
31	Schenectady	"	8	Roanoke	"
Sept. 1	Utica	"	9	Farmville	"
2	Auburn	"	10	Blackstone	"
3	Geneva	"	12	Petersburg	"
4	Wellsboro	Pa.	13	Weldon	N.C.
5	Lockhaven	"	14	Tarboro	"
7	Williamsport	"	15	Kinston	"
8	Sunbury	"	16	Beaufort	"
9	Mahony City	"	17	New Bern	"
10	Pottsville	"	19	Washington	"
11	Lebenon	"	20	Greenville	"
12	Columbia	"	21	Wilson	"
14	York	"	22	Warsaw	"
15	Lancaster	"	23	Wilmington	"
16	Coatesville	"	24	Whiteville	"
17	Wilmington	Del.	26	Darlington	S.C.
18	Elkton	Md.	27	Orangeburg	"
19	Westminster	"	28	Thomson	Ga.
21	Cumberland	"	29	Washington	"
22	Piedmont	W. Va.	30	Madison	"
23	Grafton	"	31	Monroe	"
24	Morgantown	"	Nov. 2	Rome	"
25	Fairmont	"	3	Dalton	"
26	Mannington	"	4	Chattanooga	Tenn.

Total mileage 10,950 miles-16 States visited-4 provinces of Canada-
176 show days-59 stands in Canada. Winter Quarters at Peru, Ind.

BOB DICKMAN'S CIRCUS
(Wendell Goodwin)

There is still plenty of romance left in the grand old tradition the-American Circus. Bob Dickman's Circus is a small one ring mud hopper that brings back memories of the early wagon shows that brought out the natives in the days of Sam Scribner, Warren Irons, Frost Lemon, Martin J. Downs etc. Lois Bull, who authored "The Love Trapeze" one of the truly great Circus stories would undoubtedly enjoy spending a week with the Dickman show.

Elmer Kemp, a well known circus enthusiast; and the writer, motored from Trenton, N.J. to Clinton, N.J. to witness a performance of the Dickman aggregation and we spent a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Mr. Kemp handled the sound system and saw to it that transcriptions of old fashioned circus music played during the program, while the writer was guest equestrian director for the evening performance.

It is the type of a circus that affords an opportunity to a man to sneak away from the hubbub of business, politics and taxes and in the role of a guest clown with the show-really have a grand time and two wks. vacation. The entire show moves on one truck. A small light plant located

DICKMAN CIRCUS(CONTINUED)

in back of the trucks cab furnishes the illumination for the big top, the marquee, and the midway. The big top is square and measures 100x80. It is the only genuine air-conditioned tent in circusdom. It would take a month of Sundays to count the holes in it. There are 12 sections of blues, five high. The circus program is presented in one ring and it cost 50¢ to see it. If you want to sit in the center it costs 15¢ more. Bob Dickman, sole proprietor and manger of the show sits on a high box under the marquee, and sells and collects the tickets. Exactly 3 men take part in the circus performance. In addition, Mr. Dickman has 2 workingmen to help him put it up, and tear it down. On the midway is the novelty stand owned by the general agent Jack Grant, and operated by his wife Gene. There is also a photo gallery operated by Jim & Mildred Reeve, and Ray and Dora Rizzani have peanuts and popcorn.

The performance is as follows:-Display 1. Frank Doss and his educated dogs and monkeys; Display 2. Robinson the magician; Display 3. Buck Leahy clown number; Display 4. Candy pitch; Display 5. Buck Leahy contortion act; Display 6. Frank Doss and his military ponies. That ladies and gents concluded the circus performance.

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J. Tracy writes that he saw the James Cole Circus at Lockport, that Bill Tumber has the kid show on it and that they were old Golmar Bros. troupers. He also caught Bailey Bros. at Tonawanda and then RBBB on June 20th in his own home town of Buffalo. Dr. Humbard paid him a visit and they then went together and paid a visit on Mr. Carrier the giant who is 7ft. 2in. The Doc makes a study of giants and told Tracy the only giant with any approach to scientific accuracy to his knowledge was Jack Earl. He said he had files on 256 and met 15 personally. The most interesting ones being Willie Camper & Rob't Wedlow. As a doctor Ella Ewing and Mrs. Fischer impressed him. Also said the height around 1900 was 6 ft. 10 in. before you could be called a giant. Since the time of Barnum's Museum there has been between 50 and 60 that have trouped with circuses. The first giant to be exhibited in America was M. Bihin in 1830, then in 1864 became features in the circus annex. He has a negro giant living with him that he is making a medical study of. His home is in Barnard, Mo.

*2*****
ADS ARE 20¢ a line with a min. of 5 lines. Send in your Xmas ads now.

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The cover on last month's BANDWAGON was of the original U.S. BANDWAGON and is now down in Fla. at RBBB winter quarters rotting away. This wagon represents Div. 1 which is headed by DON SMITH. On purpose this information was let out last month just to see how many would write in about it, how many would know what wagon it was and how many if any would be able to furnish the information of when and where it had been taken.

PLEASE SEND YOUR DOLLAR FOR YOUR BANDWAGON MEMBERSHIP PIN TO J. CROWLEY

.....
Circus season will soon be over so let's start to plan during the winter for our CONVENTION next summer. Please send in suggestions where it should be held, on what Circus, in what part of the country and anything that will help to make it a success. All this will take time and people appointed, programs figured out, Circuses contacted etc. Let's decide at what time of the year would be best suited and the amount of days it should be held. Send all suggestions to VAN MATRE 3328 H St. Phila. Pa. Everything sent in will be published so you will know how it is progressing. It is up to you, you will only get out of anything what U put in.

